

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0030] According to one aspect then, there is provided a baseball bat comprising: a handle portion for gripping; a cylindrical tubular hollow void barrel portion for striking; and a tapered mid-section portion connecting the handle portion and the barrel portion; the handle, barrel and mid-section portions constructed solely of a polymer composite material, the polymer composite material comprising a thermoset resin and continuous length reinforcement fibers, the continuous length reinforcement fibers comprising multiple intertwined tubular braid forms, the intertwined tubular braid forms being arranged in multiple layers, the continuous length reinforcement fibers arranged at a resultant fiber angle relative to a central longitudinal axis of the bat, wherein an average of the absolute values of all the resultant fiber angles in the handle portion is less than an average of the absolute values of all the resultant fiber angles in the barrel portion, thereby providing the handle portion with an axial stiffness that is greater than the axial stiffness of the barrel portion.

Please also replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 18, with the following rewritten paragraphs:

[0031(a)] According to another aspect, there is provided a baseball bat comprising: a handle portion for gripping, the handle portion having a handle length; a cylindrical tubular hollow void barrel portion for striking, the barrel portion having a barrel length; and a tapered mid-section portion connecting the handle portion and the barrel portion; the handle, barrel and mid-section portions constructed solely of a polymer composite material, the polymer composite material comprising a thermoset resin and continuous length reinforcement fibers, wherein the continuous length reinforcement fibers in the handle portion have a handle fiber length and the continuous length reinforcement fibers in the barrel portion have a barrel fiber length, and wherein the handle fiber length is greater than the handle length and the barrel fiber length is greater than the barrel length, the continuous length reinforcement fibers being arranged at a resultant fiber angle relative to a central longitudinal axis of the bat, wherein an average of the absolute values of all the resultant fiber angles in the handle portion is less than an average of the absolute values of all the resultant fiber angles in the barrel portion, thereby providing the handle

portion with an axial stiffness that is greater than the axial stiffness of the barrel portion, and wherein the axial stiffness of the handle portion is between 50,000 lb/in² and 250,000 lb/in², and the radial stiffness of the barrel portion is between 70,000 lb/in² and 350,000 lb/in².

[0031(b)] According to a further aspect, there is provided a baseball bat comprising: a handle portion for gripping, the handle portion having a handle length; a cylindrical tubular hollow void barrel portion for striking, the barrel portion having a barrel length; and a tapered mid-section portion connecting the handle portion and the barrel portion; the handle, barrel and mid-section portions constructed solely of a polymer composite material, the polymer composite material comprising a thermoset resin and continuous length reinforcement fibers, wherein the continuous length reinforcement fibers in the handle portion have a handle fiber length and the continuous length reinforcement fibers in the barrel portion have a barrel fiber length, and wherein the handle fiber length is greater than the handle length and the barrel fiber length is greater than the barrel length, the continuous length reinforcement fibers being arranged at a resultant fiber angle relative to a central longitudinal axis of the bat, wherein an average of the absolute values of all the resultant fiber angles in the handle portion is less than an average of the absolute values of all the resultant fiber angles in the barrel portion, thereby providing the handle portion with an axial stiffness that is greater than the axial stiffness of the barrel portion, and wherein the first bending mode frequency of the handle portion is between 100 and 600 hertz, and the hoop frequency of the barrel portion is between 800 and 2000 hertz.